

S U M M A R Y

FILE NO.	2262	Thomas Guide Map No. 716 - 718; 746 – 748; 776 - 778
		Date Received: 06/25/07
		Date Completed: 07/02/07
		Date Distributed: 07/02/07
ENTITY	King County Fire Protection District Mountain View Fire & Rescue No. 44 King County Fire Protection District No 17	Date Filed:
ACTION	Resolution for Merger of Fire Protection District Service Areas	Expiration 45 Days: 08/08/07
TITLE	Merger of King County Fire Protection District No. 44 and King County Fire Protection District No 17	Board Meeting: 07/12/07

Introduction: King County Fire Protection District No. 44 (Mountain Fire and Rescue) submits this Notice of Intention to merge King County Fire Protection District No. 17 into Fire Protection District No. 44. This merger is proposed at the request of Fire Protection District No. 17. A Resolution between Fire Protection District No. 44 and District No. 17 was ratified in support of this merger in April of 2007.

Location The territory comprising the proposed King County Fire Protection District No. 44 is bordered by the City of Auburn on the west boundary. The northern boundary is formed variously by the City of Kent, the City of Maple Valley, the City of Covington, and Unincorporated King County. The eastern boundary is formed by Unincorporated King County (including Urban Growth Area and Rural Area). The southern boundary is also formed by Unincorporated King County (including Urban Growth Area and Rural Area).

The City of Black Diamond is not included in the proposed merger between Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17 because the City directly provides fire and emergency services within municipal boundaries.

Land Area King County Fire Protection District No. 44: Approximately 52.8 square miles.

King County Fire Protection District No. 17: Approximately 11.5 square miles.

Land Use King County Fire Protection District No. 44: Residential land use (Urban and Rural), Agricultural, and Forest production Light commercial uses, Mineral resources, Natural areas, and Public Use lands.

	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 17</u> Residential land use (Urban and Rural), Agricultural, and Forest production Light commercial uses, Mineral resources, Natural areas, and Public Use lands.
Population	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 44:</u> Approximately 31,000 persons <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 17:</u> Approximately 680 persons
Assessed Valuation	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 44:</u> \$2,724,536,484 <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 17:</u> \$180,345,361
County Comprehensive Plan Designation/Zoning	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 44:</u> Residential land use (Urban and Rural), Agricultural, and Forest production Light commercial uses, Mineral resources, Natural areas, and Public Use lands. <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 17:</u> Residential land use (Urban and Rural), Agricultural, and Forest production Light commercial uses, Mineral resources, Natural areas, and Public Use lands.
City Comprehensive Plan/Zoning	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 44:</u> Not Applicable <i>(Note: In the event that the Lea Hill Area is annexed to the City of Auburn, that jurisdiction will establish and administer land use designations/zoning for the affected area. Permitted land uses will likely include residential development, light commercial use, light industrial uses, and public open space.)</i> <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 17:</u> Not Applicable
District Comprehensive Plan	Not Applicable.
District Franchise	Not Applicable.
Urban Growth Area (UGA)	The proposed King County Fire Protection District No. 44 includes lands that are located within the Urban Growth Area and lands that are located within the Rural Area.
SEPA Declaration	Environmental review was conducted for the proposed merger of Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17. A Determination of Non-Significance was completed in April of 2007.

ENTITIES/AGENCIES NOTIFIED:

King County Council Member(s) Reagan Dunn; Pete von Reichbauer; Julia Patterson

King County: Clerk of Council, Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), Department of Assessments, Department of Transportation (DOT), State Department of Ecology (DOE), King County "911" Program, Office of Management and Budget, Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys' Office, King County Records and Election Division, Fire Marshal Division, Historic Preservation Program, Puget Sound Regional Council, Community and Human Services, Public Health Department

Cities: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Covington, Enumclaw, Kent, Maple Valley, Pacific

Fire Districts: King County Fire Protection District No. 28; King County Fire Protection District No. 31; King County Fire Protection District No. 37; King County Fire Protection District No. 43; King County Fire Protection District No. 47 (*)

Water Districts: City of Auburn, Covington Water District, King County Water District No. 111, the City of Black Diamond, City of Enumclaw Water Department, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. (*)

Sewer Districts: Cedar River Water and Sewer District (*)

School Districts: Auburn School District No. 408, Enumclaw School District No. 216; Kent School District No. 415; Tahoma School District No. 409

(*) RCW 36.93 also requires notification of jurisdictions within 10 miles of the boundaries of Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17. A complete listing of these jurisdictions may be found in the record for File No. 2262.

SUMMARY FILE NO. 2262

King County Fire Protection District No. 44 proposes a merger with King County Fire Protection District No. 17, an independent Fire Protection District. This merger is proposed at the request of Fire Protection District No. 17. A Resolution between Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17 was ratified in support of this merger in April of 2007.

Fire Protection District No. 17 was initially founded to provide fire protection in southeast King County. District No. 17 provided service to the City of Black Diamond from the incorporation of the District until 2002 when the City of Black Diamond assumed operation of the fire department. The City then provided fire service to District No. 17.

The proposed merger is underlain by two Interlocal Agreements. Through an Interlocal Agreement established in 2002, the City of Black Diamond provides fire and emergency services to Fire Protection District 17. In 2006, the City of Black Diamond signed an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with King County Fire Protection District No. 44 authorizing District No. 44 to provide all fire service and emergency services to District No. 17 utilizing facilities and responders from the City of Black Diamond. This service is to be augmented, as necessary, by resources available from District No. 44. A fully executed copy of each Interlocal Agreement is provided in the Notice of Intention.

The merger between Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire District No. 17 has been proposed in order to improve the overall level of fire protection service to the greater community. More specifically, the Protection Districts currently work in concert so that a merger would serve primarily to formalize organization structure and function. Prior to authorizing the merger, the affected Fire Protection Districts conducted studies in order to ensure that this action to combine the Fire Protection Districts would be conducive to public health, welfare and safety, would provide convenient services to customers, and would offer benefits to the natural and built environments in the affected urban and rural communities.

The proposed territory to comprise King County Fire Protection District No. 44 is bordered by the City of Auburn on the west boundary. The northern boundary is formed variously by the City of Kent, the City of Maple Valley, the City of Covington, and Unincorporated King County. The eastern boundary is formed by Unincorporated King County (including Urban Growth Area and Rural Area). The southern boundary is also formed by Unincorporated King County (including Urban Growth Area and Rural Area).

The City of Black Diamond is not included in the proposed merger between Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17 because the City directly provides fire and emergency services within municipal boundaries.

The territory proposed for inclusion in Fire Protection District No. 44, following the intended merger of Fire Protection District No. 17, includes varied land uses as identified in the 2004 King County Comprehensive Plan. Predominantly designated for rural residential land use, agricultural, and forest production coexist with sparse light commercial parcels, mineral resources, natural areas, and public use lands. This proposed merger requests no changes in existing land use plans. Fire District representatives report that consolidation of services afforded by this proposed merger maintains existing levels of fire protection and emergency services.

Creation of the proposed merger of Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17 would not affect local governance. All properties would continue to be governed by the existing underlying jurisdiction – including King County or the appropriate local municipality. Thus, the proposed merger would not affect land designations or land uses for developed properties. Similarly, undeveloped properties would be designated for development under the regulations of the appropriate basic jurisdiction.

King County Fire Protection District representatives report that the merger is consistent with applicable provisions of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) and King County Comprehensive

Plan/Countywide Planning Policies. For example, King County Comprehensive Plan policies which support this merger include:

- F-205 which encourages combining of public services and facilities to improve effectiveness of operation; and
- F-215 which calls for coordinated planning for public services; and
- F-220 which calls for sharing of essential public facilities to enhance efficiencies; and
- FW-8 which calls for traditional service levels in Rural Areas.

The proposed merger would also comply with King County Comprehensive Plan/Countywide Planning Policies CO-2 which calls for services to be established through collaboration with regional agencies. Similarly the proposed merger would address Policies CO-14, CO-15, and CO-16 which call for services to be provided in a manner which preserves the Rural Area.

Representatives from King County Fire District No. 44 report that the currently proposed extension of services is consistent with the provisions of RCW 36.93 (Boundary Review Board Regulations). For example, RCW 36.93.180 requires that such actions be evaluated with respect to nine objectives. In this application, several key objectives have been identified as being potentially relevant for specific consideration, including:

- Objective 1: Preservation of neighborhoods,
- Objective 3: Creation and preservation of logical service areas,
- Objective 4: Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries, and
- Objective 7: Adjustment of impractical boundaries.

More specifically, Fire Protection District representatives report that the merger would support the preservation of the community (Objective 1) by offering coordinated services that will protect and enhance existing formally defined adjacent and related communities.

Similarly, the proposed merger will enable a more coordinated, efficient service system for the community, as envisioned in Objective 3, Objective 4, and Objective 7. Existing facilities (e.g., stations, equipment, facilities) will remain in place following the merger. These facilities are generally adequate to serve current and anticipated new customers; however, following the merger, upgrades to selected operating systems may be provided to improve services to specific areas as appropriate to provide for public safety and welfare.

The communities receiving fire services from the combined Fire Protection Districts will continue to receive water services from the current service providers, including Covington Water District, King County Water District No. 111, the City of Black Diamond, City of Enumclaw Water Department, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

The urban communities receiving fire services from the combined Fire Protection Districts will continue to receive sewer services from the current service provider, Cedar River Water and Sewer District. The Rural Areas included in the proposed merger of Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17 are not permitted to receive sewer services pursuant to the King County Comprehensive Plan.

The Fire Protection Districts have undertaken a fiscal analysis that provides direction with respect to management of funding resources, revenues and expenditures related to the specific merger and the provision of services following the combination of Fire Protection District No. 44 and Fire Protection District No. 17. No significant changes in expenditures or revenues are anticipated for affected jurisdictions as a result of the proposed merger for fire services. Rather, Fire Protection District representatives report confidence that the proposed merger will permit improved economic efficiencies for facilities and operations management thereby providing more effective fire protection and emergency services to benefit the citizens of the area.